

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In order to shorten a time for preliminary original reading which is performed prior to reading of an original image, an image reading apparatus of the present invention scans an original mounted on a platen glass by a scan optical system that moves to the original and reads a scanned image of the original by using a CCD sensor, the apparatus having a function to perform a preliminary original read operation for automatically deciding a density of the original before the reading operation of the original image, wherein the preliminary original reading is performed while the scan optical system in an idling state is moving from a read standby position to an image read operation start position; a white background level correction operation of the CDD sensor is performed after collection of original density data by the preliminary original read operation; and a result of the correction is reflected on the original density data obtained by the preliminary original reading to control the decision of the original density.